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10-3-2014

Ten Years Of Success: Armstrong State Women's Soccer Celebrates Milestone Anniversary

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Recommended Citation

Armstrong State University, "Ten Years Of Success: Armstrong State Women's Soccer Celebrates Milestone Anniversary" (2014). *Armstrong Women's Soccer News Archives*. 103.
<https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/armstrong-soccer-wmn-news/103>

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WOMEN'S SOCCER

Ten Years Of Success: Armstrong State Women's Soccer Celebrates Milestone Anniversary



Posted: Oct 03, 2014

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SAVANNAH, Ga. - Soccer. Futbol. Others call it "The Beautiful Game." Whatever name you prefer, Armstrong State University celebrated 10 years of it on Saturday, September 20th when the women's soccer team hosted Columbus State in a Peach Belt Conference match. head coach Eric Faulconer named 15 players, past and present, to the 10th Anniversary Team, which was honored in a pre-match ceremony.

"We thought it would be great to have previous players come back who have been a big part of our success here," Faulconer said. [View the complete 10th Anniversary Team here.](#)

Erin Holt, who played for the Pirates from 2008-11, was named the honorary captain of the team. Erin suffered a brain injury last November in a car accident in Statesboro. She has been back home living with her family in Marietta, Ga., recovering and doing physical therapy to get better. Erin attended the game with her family, celebrating the historic day. "Armstrong has been great and they stress the importance of family here," Ben Holt, Erin's father, said. "It is exciting for both Erin and us to come back here and be part of this celebration."

Thirteen of the 15 of the players were able to come back Saturday to be part of the celebration. Being among the team was

a chance to talk and visit with some of the best Division II women's soccer players over the last decade. From All-Americans to players that were part of multiple conference and regional championships and even the biggest stage, the NCAA's Final Four.

A midfielder and defender from 2009-12, Emily Cattnach, was in attendance. Currently she is in the physical therapy program at Armstrong and works as a graduate assistant for the Athletic Department. She was an integral part of the 2011 team that was the first for Armstrong to advance to the Final Four. "I was really honored by the nomination, and thankful for Coach Faulconer nominating me," Cattnach said. "It is really good to see everyone, and catch up, since we were really close as a team."

On this special day, Armstrong played conference rival Columbus State University. Since 2006, seven Peach Belt Conference championships have been split between the two teams. It has become a modern-day Ali vs. Frazier matchup. Saturday was no different with both teams sporting plenty of fans in the stands, and they were treated to another classic on the field between the Pirates and the Cougars.

In the first 15 minutes of the match, Armstrong scored two goals - the second goal was struck by Armstrong freshman midfielder **Randi Schroedel**. It was struck so fast and quick into the top right corner of the net, that it left the Columbus State goalie's head spinning. Columbus State answered the challenge, scoring two goals in under five minutes. The score remained 2-2 until halftime. The entire second half was back and forth between the two teams, with shots on goal that left you hanging on the edge of your seat.

At the end of regulation, the score remained 2-2, with the match prime for the taking for either team. The first overtime period ended with some close calls, but no one scored. Just 63 seconds into the second overtime period, Columbus State's Chelsea Person broke the Pirates' hearts by scoring the winning goal, giving the Cougars the 3-2 double overtime victory.

Armstrong had a stellar four-year stretch of being undefeated at home between 2009-12, so losing in general - losing at home - is rare for the Pirates. For Coach Faulconer, it was a bitter pill to swallow. "We are not used to losing," Faulconer said. "We put a lot of pressure on ourselves to be a winning program."

Still it was a great afternoon of celebration for those past and current Pirates who made up the Anniversary team. From players who played on the very first team like midfielder Donna Cheyne and forward Lyndsi Stricklen, to the two Pirates who are on the 2014 Armstrong squad, goalkeeper **Morgan Luckie** and defender **Taylor Russell**, all are proud to be Pirates. The future could not be brighter for Armstrong soccer, for the success that coach Faulconer and the Pirates have built in Savannah.

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